

institutions in two different states unless you get the Legislatures, the representatives of the taxpayers in those states involved in causing that regional agreement to take place. And I might tell you that I feel so strongly about this that I have gone to the Education Commission of the states and the National Conference of State Legislatures and they are going to have a national conference on this very subject this fall, because they also recognize the need to begin to look across state lines and to get the Legislatures, the policy makers involved in those decisions. Finally, this amendment sets up a mechanism that I think is of vital importance as well and that is that this oversight committee representing this Legislature would have to approve a regional agreement established under the provisions of this bill if it was going to require any general fund appropriations. Now I think that is a key issue. It is one of my key issues, I can assure you when I look at this whole issue. We have as a state, we have expended something over a half million dollars already for the planning of a school of veterinary medicine. Now we could use that half million dollars in a lot of ways up at the University right now. We could use that half million dollars in our appropriations process to a lot of places in state government right now. But it is already gone. It is already gone because we were following a dream and we were saying we are going to expend money to coordinate, we are going to spend money to draw up plans, we are going to spend money because we are going to build a regional school of veterinary medicine here. I was one of those people for five, six, seven years now that stood on this floor and said, folks, it ain't going to happen. Other states are not going to join us. The need isn't there. The costs are too great. We are in a buyer's market. We could have students of veterinary medicine in about any school that you could name right now. As a matter of fact, we turned down twenty slots at Wisconsin. We don't need a vet school right now just to get students in veterinary medicine, neither do other states. Consequently, they didn't join us. Consequently, all that money we were putting in that planning phase for the Old West School of Regional Veterinary Medicine was like pouring money down a rat hole. And I will tell you, quite frankly, I have spent the last dime I intend to ever spend as a member of this Legislature for a school of veterinary medicine until I know exactly what we are going to spend it for. I want to see exactly what the agreement says with the neighboring state. I want